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MALAWI

USAID Funded MTPDS Program Monthly Newsletter

Malawi Teacher Professional Development Support (MTPDS) program is a 3 year USAID funded project supporting the professional development of teachers in Malawi and implementation of the National Primary Curriculum. MTPDS is being implemented by Creative Associates International, RTI International and Seward, Inc, in close collaboration with the Ministry of Education Science and Technology

US Chargé D'Affaires and Deputy Minister of Education grace USAID funded MTPDS training awards in Mzimba North



Kondwani Mbulo receives her certificate

The 5th of July 2011 will be remembered as a special day for 43 PEAs and Key teachers from Mzimba North District, who received certificates of achievement from the US Chargé D'Affaires Lisa Vickers and the Deputy Minister of Education Hon. Victor Songazaudzu Sajeni

These certificates recognized the vital role of the educators as 'foot soldiers' in the delivery of Continuous Professional Development (CPD) to standard 1-4 primary teachers and school leaders under the **USAID Funded MTPDS Program**.

These trainers represent the 950 trainers who have been trained to deliver CPD nationwide,

who have already reached out to 27,000 standard 1-4 teachers and 10,000 heads and deputies with training on teaching literacy and numeracy skills and on instructional leadership.

Both USAID and the Ministry place CPD at the heart of their strategies for improving the quality of basic education in Malawi. The importance attached to CPD was demonstrated by the host of VIPs who attended the event. In addition to Deputy Minister Hon. Victor Songazaudzu Sajeni and the US Embassy Charge' D Affaires, Lisa Vickers, the occasion was also graced by Deputy Ministers Otrria Moyo-Jere and Catherine Gotani Hara, Aabira Sher Afgan, Senior Education Advisor/Acting Team Leader USAID Education Office and many senior officials of the MoEST.

In his remarks, the Deputy Minister expressed to the good work done on CPD teacher trainings implemented through **USAID funded MTPDS Program**. He lauded the efforts of USAID in providing MoEST funding and technical assistance for the improvement of education at all levels. He stressed the importance of improving teachers' skills in teaching literacy and numeracy and the need for teachers to take CPD seriously. He stated that MoEST has made policy decision that in future, promotion along with number of years served will have strong accountability on performance and efforts at professional self-improvement. In other words, CPD teacher training will contribute to a teacher's career development and growth in their profession.

In her remarks, Charge' D Affaires, Lisa Vickers said that USAID will continue to improve literacy levels according to USAID's new Global Education Strategy 2011.

Learners from Ekwendeni Zone spiced up the event with some excellent entertainment.



Young readers demonstrate their skills

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"Pupils are enjoying learning to build letters and syllables into whole words,"
Kondwani Mbulo,
PEA Enukwani

Continuous Professional Development Update

During July the **USAID funded MTPDS program** printed 11,600 participant manuals and 1,300 facilitator manuals for Leadership Module 2. The manuals were printed in preparation for training school leaders (two from each school in Malawi) and the PEAs who will train them. So far **USAID Funded MTPDS program** in collaboration with MoEST has trained a total of 940 PEAs and Key teachers from all 315 zones in Malawi.

The Primary Education Advisors (PEAs) will also be responsible for training all Standards 1-4 teachers (about 27,000) when delivering Literacy, Numeracy and Life Skills modules during the school year. For the second leadership module, facilitators have been trained at district level by 8 master trainers who are also responsible for developing the CPD modules. PEAS will then start training all school leaders in the first week of August.



The PEAS and one of the DLNCs at Msalula TDC in Salima

PEAs are very appreciative of the knowledge gained from these training activities in respect to sharpening their professional aptitudes. **USAID funded MTPDS program** encourages these PEAs to carry forward this enthusiasm when they deliver CPD teacher trainings in their zones.

In this cycle of leadership training, the prime goal is to help school leaders embrace their role as instructional leaders which can enable them to act as catalysts for achieving the high quality of teaching and learning envisaged in the Primary Curriculum and Assessment Reform (PCAR) and National Education Sector Plan (NESP). Meanwhile, three new modules are under development, two of which are scheduled to take place before school begins in September.

Database assists ODL Desk Officers in Teacher Training Colleges

The Management of information about Open and Distance Learning Students in Teacher Training Colleges (TTC) in Malawi had been a serious problem since the beginning of the ODL program under MoEST. This will now be a thing of the past, as the technical interventions under the **USAID funded MTPDS program** are gearing up to address the gaps and test low cost ICT models that can be easily adapted by MoEST.

An assessment performed by **USAID Funded MTPDS program** in collaboration with the Department for Teacher Education and Development (DTED), indicated that TTCs were experiencing serious problem in capturing and maintaining ODL student data. Some kept data in manual files while others kept electronic data, without any standardized format or means of querying the information.

"This database will ease our job of data management and record keeping," Mr. Kayira, ODL Desk Officer, Karonga TTC.

In order to solve the problem, **USAID Funded MTPDS program** has developed a new purpose-built database system and has provided associated IT training to each TTC in the country. The

ODL Officers were provided with targeted training that covered: introduction to database, standardizing forms, entering students' data, generation of reports, basic trouble shooting, quality assurance, best practices in teacher support and introduction to Skype. Mr Kayira, desk officer for Karonga Teacher Training Centre (TTC) thanked USAID Funded MTPDS program for providing this support as it will ease their job of data management.



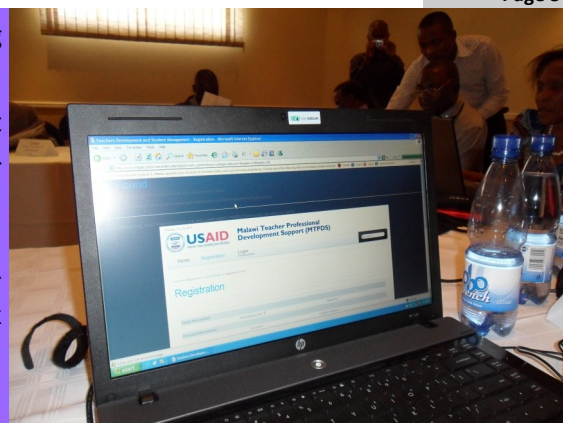
Gertrude Jumbe, Blantyre TTC

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Benedicto Kamanga from DTED expressed his delight, saying that for a long time DTED had been complaining about connectivity and record keeping. He thanked **USAID funded MTPDS** for the program that will without doubt benefit ODL students across Malawi. It will be easier for DTED to have access to students' information at the touch of a button.

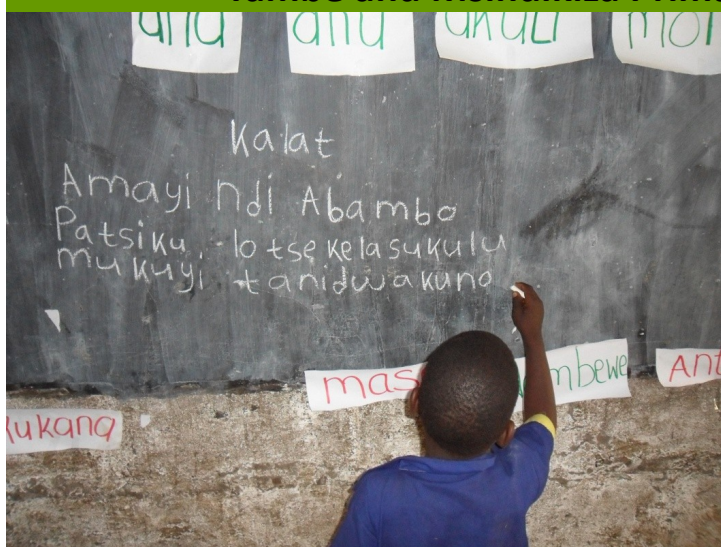
USAID Funded MTPDS program has created a website specifically for ODL data management. The URL can easily be accessed by following the link below:

<http://www.odl.mtpds.org/>



A screen shows the ODL data management website

Yambe and Msindikiza Primary Schools hold literacy fairs



A STD 1 learner writing a letter to his parents



Clare Mthumba-Zatha with learners and parents

The **USAID Funded MTPDS Program** is piloting a literacy and numeracy intervention in Ntchisi and Salima districts with the aim of supporting early teaching strategies. The priority is to ensure that learners are able to read and write by the end of Standard 1.

Efforts in Salima and Ntchisi are already bearing fruit. Yambe and Msindikiza Primary Schools in Salima district organized literacy fairs on 8 July 2011. Learners showcased to parents, community leaders their literary achievements. Parents observed Chichewa lessons in where their children were able to write their names and simple sentences.

Learners published **"ANIKUMETO"** books in their groups using frequently used letters in words in Chichewa to form names, words and sentences.

The Head teacher at Yambe government primary school, Mr. Telex Mazenga asked parents for their assistance in providing them with teaching and learning resources. Teachers Martha Batison, Laurent Ngwira from Yambe and Clare Mthumba-Zatha from Msindikiza expressed their joy that within a few weeks on the intervention, their learners are reading and writing sentences.

The teachers emphasized to parents, the importance of ensuring that their children go to school every day so that they do not miss out.

PCAR M&E strategy developed



Officials from MoEST departments at the workshop

USAID funded MTPDS program is working closely with Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MoEST) to develop a Monitoring and Evaluation framework and strategy that will allow MoEST to regularly assess progress in the implementation of the Primary Curriculum and Assessment Reform (PCAR).

From 12th to 14th July, **USAID Funded MTPDS program** brought in Malawi an international consultant Liz Randolph to assist the program in its work. The program conducted for officials from various MoEST departments a workshop at the Crossroads Hotel to define a concise set of indicators, develop instruments for data collection and to design a costing implementation plan for data collection and analysis. Under the **USAID Funded MTPDS program**, needs analysis was also conducted to assess the capacity building requirements of MoEST in delivering this plan.

Events Calendar for August 2011

Ongoing USAID funded MTPDS Program Activities Teacher Education Policy Support

- Development of NSTED Framework and Strategy
- Data collection assessing teacher training costs

Continuous Professional Development (CPD)

- Printing of Leadership Module 3
- Development of Literacy Module 2

Open and Distance Learning (ODL)

- Monitor and support pilot intervention

Early Grade Reading and Mathematics

- Preparing and printing Literacy training manuals for Salima and Ntchisi Early Grade Reading Intervention

Teaching and Learning Materials

- Developing and documenting Continuous Assessment Evaluation Criteria and Guidelines

PCAR Monitoring and Evaluation

- Completion and submission of PCAR M&E Strategy

Planned Events under the USAID funded MTPDS Program

Continuous Professional Development (CPD)

- **1st to 12th Aug:** Finalize the drafting of Literacy 2 and Leadership 3 and editing of Leadership 3, Literacy 2 and Life Skills 1.
- **1st to 31st Aug:** Nationwide delivery of Leadership 2 training ongoing throughout August.

Open and Distance Learning (ODL)

- **1-12th Aug:** Monitoring TTC database management
- **1-30th Aug:** Support and maintenance of SMS & database pilots

Early Grade Reading and Mathematics

- **9th Aug:** EGRA/EGMA technical review workshop.
- **10-17th Aug:** Literacy Trainer of Trainers workshop for reading intervention in Salima and Ntchisi.
- **18-27th Aug:** Conducting literacy intervention zonal trainings for Standard 1 teachers and head-teachers in Salima and Ntchisi.

Contact: Editor, **USAID** funded MTPDS Program, Area 10/612, Tsoka Road, Private Bag B481, Lilongwe. Tel: +265 1 794 977, Email: mkachila@mtpds.rti.org Web: www.mtpds.org & www.odl.mtpds.org
Useful downloadable resources: <http://www.mtpds.org/resources/CPD-manuals>